



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,430	04/15/2004	Roger L. Stolte	1899US01	9854
43896	7590	08/23/2007	EXAMINER	
ECOLAB INC.			OGDEN JR, NECHOLUS	
MAIL STOP ESC-F7, 655 LONE OAK DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
EAGAN, MN 55121			1751	
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		08/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/826,430	STOLTE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Necholus Ogden	1751	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 38-69 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Response to Amendment***

***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.
2. Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15-17, 21, 22, 27-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Van den Brom et al (5,719111).

Van den Brom et al disclose a solid detergent block comprising 0.1 to 10% by weight of a non-phosphate building agent such as MGDA an alkali metal silicate (col. 4, lines 1-20); less than 5.0% by weight of water; 5-80% by weight of an alkaline agent; 0.5 to 5.0% by weight of a surfactant and 0 to 20% by weight of a bleaching agent (col. 2, lines 20-55). Note, see examples and claims

As this reference teaches all of the instantly required it is considered anticipatory.

In the alternative, if the above listed claims are not considered anticipatory, it would have nonetheless been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the components of Van den Brom et al to specifically teach the claimed MGDA solid detergent composition because Van den Brom et al require each of the claimed components in their requisite proportions, wherein it would have been obvious to combine the components, absent a showing to the contrary.

3. Claims 1-25, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over European Patent (0882786).

EP '786 disclose a powdered detergent composition comprising 0.5 to 30% by weight of MGDA; 0.5 to 18% by weight of a nonionic surfactant; 1 to 30% by weight of a anionic surfactant; and inorganic builders such as crystalline silicate (see abstract). EP '786 further includes other builders such as tripolyphosphates, and silicates (page 7, lines 35-55) .

As this reference teaches all of the instantly required it is considered anticipatory.

In the alternative, if the above listed claims are not considered anticipatory, it would have nonetheless been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the components of EP '786 to specifically teach the claimed MGDA solid detergent composition because EP '786 require each of the claimed components in their requisite proportions, wherein it would have been obvious to combine the components, absent a showing to the contrary.

4. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Williams (6,162,259).

Williams disclose a laundry composition comprising a builder, surfactant and amino tricarboxylic acid such as MGDA. Williams teaches that said surfactant comprises from 0.2 to 30% by weight of an anionic, nonionic, cationic and/or mixtures thereof (col. 2, lines 20-57). With respect to the anionic surfactants, Williams teaches that said anionic surfactants comprise alkyl sulfonate, sulfate and ethoxy sulfate surfactants (col. 3, lines 42-60). The compositions of Williams further comprise 1-80% by weight of said builders such as tripolyphosphates (col. 5, lines 60-65); and aluminosilicates; and 0.001 to 40% by weight of MGDA (col. 6, lines 34-67). Additional

components such as 3-12% by weight of alkalinity components such as alkali metal silicates, 0.005 to 20% by weight of sequestrants and adjunct materials such as water or moisture (col. 22, lines 5-41). Moreover, Williams further teach that said composition may be in any form such as tablets, granular, powders (col. 26, lines 24-26), and wherein said compositions are processed by extrusion and tabletted (col. 26, lines 47-58). With respect to claim 32, said tablet or granular compositions may be dispensed from a container (col. 27, line 34-col. 28, line 20). See examples 1-3, 5, 8-9 and claims.

As this reference teaches all of the instantly required it is considered anticipatory. In the alternative, if the above listed claims are not considered anticipatory, it would have nonetheless been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the components of Williams to specifically teach the claimed MGDA solid detergent composition because Williams requires each of the claimed components in their requisite proportions, wherein it would have been obvious to combine the components, absent a showing to the contrary.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12-11-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Van den Brom uses MGDA and water as a binding agent and further teaches away from the invention of solidification by hydration and instead uses pressure on dry granular materials to form solids.

The examiner respectfully disagrees and reminds applicant that the claims are directed to a composition and not a process of making. Moreover, additional

ingredients in the compositions of the prior art are permissible specifically since the claims are open with the “comprising” transitional phrase.

When the claim recites using an old composition or structure and the “use” is directed to a result or property of that composition or structure, then the claim is anticipated. *In re May*, 574 F.2d 1082, 1090, 197 USPQ 601, 607 (CCPA 1978).

Applicant argues that EP '786 does not teach the claimed invention because they state the composition as a powder and not as a solid as claimed.

The examiner respectfully disagrees and contends that a powder, by definition is a material composed of fine solid particles that are not cemented together. Therefore, powders are considered solids particles.

Applicant argues Williams does not teach or suggest a solid composition comprising MGDA and water to make a solid.

The examiner directs applicant's attention above, where in detail Williams teaches each the claimed components in their requisite proportions (Examples 1-3, 5, 8-9).

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

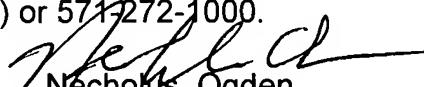
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period; then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nécholus Ogden whose telephone number is 571-272-1322. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on 571-272-1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Nécholus Ogden  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1751

No  
8-19-2007

Application/Control Number: 10/826,430  
Art Unit: 1751

Page 7